CERTAINE PROPOSITIONS OFFERED TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE *Honourable Houſes* OF PARLIAMENT.

LONDON,
Printed in the Yeare 1642.

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May it pleaſe your Honours,

BEing that your foure notorious Victories over the Cavaliers (that at *Worceſter*, that at *Keinton*, that at *Brainford*, and that lately at *Malborough*) have now as you promiſed, taught the preſent Age, and will hereafter teach the ſucceeding, what it is to runne into ſo heinous crimes; And whereas things ſtand now ſo, that you need not any longer hire Mr *Booker* to calculate Path-waies on your ſide; Theſe your great Conqueſts (which will terrifie Hiſtorians from writing them) and theſe your glorious Felicities (which are even burthenſome to your ſelves) having given you leaſure to hearken to the ſighs and groanes of the people, to whom you promiſed a Through-reformation: That you may in ſome part ſatisfie their expectations, the time of good tidings (which the Kings men commonly call *Chriſtmas*) being now at hand, I have thought fit to preſent unto you theſe few enſuing Conſiderations, which upon mature advice I preſume you will find to be of much weight with your ſelves,

and of much concernment to the Commonwealth.

1. That the time of gaming being now come in, you would be pleaſed to take into your ſerious conſideration that ſcandalous Packe of Cards, which hath, upon the Coates, names unfit for Regenerate eares; as *Hercules*, *Alexander*, *Julius Caſar*, and *Hector* of Troy, and ſuch like; and that you would change them into Old Teſtament Names, as the Kings to be *David*, *Joſiah*, *Solomon*, *Hezekiah*: the Queenes, *Sarah*, *Rachel*, *Heſter*, *Suſanna*: and the Knaves laſtly, *Balaac*, *Achitophel*, *Tobit*, and *Bel*. It is not without ground conceived, that the Iſrael of God would be well pleaſed now and then to recreate themſelves at New-Cutt, and ſome ſuch other games, if they had Kings and Queenes of the Circumciſion, and Knaves of the Covenant. Or if ſome men out of an holy diſlike to Antiquity, ſhould deſire to have Moderne Kings and Queenes, and Knaves; that upon the foure Kings you would put the Names of any foure of the five Members, and upon the foure Queenes any foure women belonging to them, and upon the foure Knaves, *Calamy*, *Marſhall*, *Downing*, and *Burges*. For as your ſelves have ſerved us in making men take up Arms againſt the King, and theſe Miniſters have ſerved you in abſolving them that were Captives, of that Oath which the King gave them, not to beare Armes againſt Him; ſo both of you deſerve to have your memories kept freſh in Statues: and how that may

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be done more conveniently then this way, I ſee not.

2. That ſeeing you have a very uſefull gift, and a great Talent in Multiplying things to the advantage of the Common cauſe, and that many eyes ſee more then few, and ſo may do more good to the Common-wealth, you would be pleaſed to conſider, if it were not worth the labour to employ ſome skilfull men in the making of two ſorts of Dice: Confiding Dice, and Malignant Dice; the Confiding to be ey'd with Caters, Cinques, and Sices: and the Malignant with nothing but Aces, Deuxes, and Treys; the which Dice are to be ſo ordered, that the Confiding may be ſold to the Confiding, and the Malignant to the Malignant; that ſo wee may make a lawfull and holy game for you. But provided, that for feare wee be ſuſpected of falſe play, it be ordred that theſe Dice be thrown out of Parliament Boxes.

3. That during all this good tide, there be no Hazard allowed, but with an eye upon the Common-wealth: and that inſtead of the Night that is uſually deſtin'd to the profit of the Butler, there be a Night deſtin'd to the two Houſes of Parliament, and that the Burgeſſes of every towne (who through the thinneſſe of affaires may conveniently now be diſpenſed with) goe downe into their ſeverall Countries to looke to the Boxes; who for miniſtring to the Common-wealth in ſuch a ſervice, ſhall have a conſiderable allowance out of the

the gaines. This I conceive (next to the ſhewing of the Monſtrous Lord with the five Members, in Faires and Markets) will moſt conduce to the ſwelling of the Publique Burſe: and it is very fit that you, that have undergone the burthen of affaires, ſhould have a ſhare out of all the Loſſes of the Kingdome.

4. That there be no Maſquing, Mumming, Blind-man-buffe, Leading Hoodwink'd, or ſuch like Gambolls, during the Twelve dayes, Acted or performed in any place, but in either, or both houſes, or ſome of the Courts where the Committees ſit, or laſtly (which is accounted the farre fitteſt place) in ſome of the City Halls, where there hath beene a conference betweene the Members, and the Aldermen: It being a great uſurpation upon the priviledges of this Parliament, that any one (without your leaves) ſhould lye hid in any dreſſe or diſguiſe, ſo as to ſee all the reſt, and not be ſeene himſelfe of them.

5. That being your ſage Counſels have thought fit to vote downe Stage-Players roote and branch, but many even of the well-affected to that Reformation have found, and hope hereafter to find, Play-houſes moſt convenient, and happy places of meeting: and that now in this Bag-pipe Minſtralſie weeke (I meane, this red packe of leaſure dayes that is comming) there muſt be ſome Enterludes whether you will or no: You would be pleaſed to declare your ſelves, that you never meant to

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take away the calling of Stage-playes, but reforme the abuse of it, that is, that they bring no prophane plots, but take them out of the Scripture all (as that of *Joseph* and his brethren would make the Ladies weepe: that of *David* and his Troubles would do pretty well for this present: and doubtlesse *Susanna* and the two Elders would be a *Scene* that would take above any that was ever yet presented.) It would not be amisse too, if instead of the Musicke that playes betweene Acts, there were onely a Psalme sung for distinction sake. This might be easily brought to passe, if either the Court Play-writers be commanded to read the Scripture, or the City-Scripture-Readers be commanded to write Playes. This as it would much advantage our Part, so it would much disadvantage the King's: for as by it wee should gaine a new place of Edifying, so Captaine *Trig*, and the rest of the Players which are now in service, would doubtlesselly returne to their callings, and much lessen the Kings Army.

6. That instead of *Carols*, which Farmers sonnes, and servants sing on Christs Birth-day before they may eate or drinke, you take order, that by some of your best City-Poets (who will write certainly to their capacity) there be some songs made of the great deeds that his *Excellencie* did at *Worcester*, and *Edge-hill*, in which 'twould do admirably well, if there were inserted a mention of that honorary summe of five thousand pounds which you presen-

ted him with after his Triumph through Kingſ-ſtreet; that ſo, if Poſterity ſhould chance to queſtion (as all certainties, you know, may be more then queſtioned) whether he got the victory or no, they may be compell'd to this Dilemma, either to acknowledge His Nobleneſſe that would receive ſo little for conquering, or your Liberality that would give him ſo much for being beaten.

7. Being Nativity-Pies muſt be eaten with Spoones, and at the good time the good old people bring out Plate older then themſelves, among which there are moſt commonly the Twelve Apoſtles, that is, a dozen of Sainted ſpoones, ſo that their very inſtruments of eating are ſo many Idols, it is more then wiſh't you would take away thoſe Apoſtles, as being now ſcandalous ſuperfluities: and that your owne heads (as you can beſt agree among your ſelves) were fixt upon them: which next to that I mention'd of the Cards, would be a pretty kind of Statue to keepe up your glories.

8. Being your Papers (which a while very handſomely thruſt out Epiſtles and Goſpels in many places) are not now read in Churches, and that they begin not to be prevalent, but with the ignorant of your owne party, and ſome few of the Kings ſervants, which are payd by you, as well as by Him, and therefore may be called Double-Pentioners: That (it being now a time when much fruit and ſpice is to be vented) you would ſend all your Declarations, Meſſages, Anſwers, Replyes, and

and ſuch like weekly productions to the Grocers, with a command, that they make up their fruits, and ſpices in no other paper but theſe, which Art will diſperſe them, not into every ſhire, but into every houſe; ſo that no neceſſary buſineſſe, that requires paper, would be done without them.

9. And laſtly, That as the Revenewes of Biſhops, and Cathedrals, and many Lay-Land-Lords are already ſet apart for publique diſpoſall, ſo you would opportunely adviſe of a way to ſequeſter all New-yeares-guifts (as Capons, Turkies, Hennes, Geeſe, and ſuch things as will live) for the uſe of the King and Parliament, and command them to be immediately after the Day brought up to *London*; and withall, that for their better ſafety, your owne High Sheriffes (which wee heare you are now pricking) may raiſe a *poſſe Comitatûs* to conduct them in Droves from Shire to Shire. This I conceive will reliſh well with the ordinary ſort of Citizens, who begin already to be nice Stomack'd, and ſhortly will be able to get downe nothing but what falls from Heaven.

Theſe grand Conſiderations I thought fit to preſent to you, becauſe you have now carryed up things to that height, that the people expect nothing little from you. They are but few in number, but your wiſedome is great, and it is eaſie to adde to another mans Invention.

And thus I have discharged my duty to you, without which I should not have thought I had closed the Yeare as a Subject, and a true Member of the Common-wealth.

FINIS.